THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 17th DAY OF MAY 1792.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

EDINBURGH:

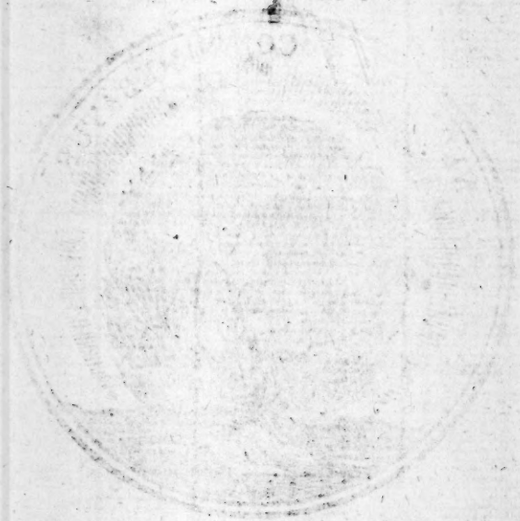
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF *SCOTLAND.*

M.DCC.XCII.

42

4 2

100



THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 17th day of MAY 1792, and concluded the 28th day of the ſaid Month and Year.

I.

The KING's Commiſſion to DAVID Earl of LEVEN produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 17. 1792.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this NATIONAL CHURCH being convened and conſtituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the KING's Commiſſion, ſealed with the ſeal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and uſed in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's High Commiſſioner and

and Repreſentative in this Aſſembly; which Commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem Nos conſiderantes, quod generalis eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum ſeptimum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Noſque abundè cupidi, et neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem eccleſiæ generalis conventus die ſtatuto debitè obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; Noſque abundè ſatisfacti de ſufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectiſſimi Noſtri conſanguinei* Davidis Comitis de Leven, *quod ad ſummum munus Noſtri ſupremi Commiſſionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit inſtructus; Noveritis igitur, Nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordinaſſe, tenoreque præſentium, nominare, conſtituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fideliſſimum et prædilectiſſimum Noſtrum conſanguineum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium dicto generali eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam poteſtatem, Commiſſionem, et warrantum ſacram Noſtram Perſonam et auctoritatem regalem repræſentandi, nec non præſentiam Noſtram ſupplendi, et locum Noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario Noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commiſſionarii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis reſpectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem ſummo munere fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven, *in hac Noſtra Commiſſione proſequenda legitimè fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Inſuper omnibus et ſingulis dicti conventûs et eccleſiæ paſtoribus et preſbyteris cæteriſque quibuſcunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, ſubditis Noſtris, cujuſcunque gradûs ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven, *tanquam ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoſcant et audiant, ſtrictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Noſtram Commiſſionem à dicto decimo ſeptimo die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante ſubſequente ſeſſione dicti generalis conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel uſque dum a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.*

In

In cujus rei teſtimonium, præſentibus ſigillum Noſtrum per Unionis tractatum cuſtodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Noſtram apud St James's, vigeſimo die menſis Aprilis, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo et nonageſimo ſecundo, Regnique Noſtri anno trigeſimo ſecundo.

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. Regis ſupraſcriptam.

II.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—The experience We have had of your Loyalty and Affection to Our Perſon and Government, and of your zeal for the encouragement of true Religion and Virtue, leaves Us no doubt of your diſpoſition, on the preſent occaſion, to perſevere in promoting the Happineſs of Our Reign, and the true Intereſts of the Church of which you are Members.

We therefore feel the higheſt ſatisfaction in continuing to countenance your Meetings with Our Royal Authority, and to aſſure you of Our fixed determination to maintain the Church of Scotland, in the perfect enjoyment of all its juſt Rights and Privileges.

We are perſuaded, that you will apply yourſelves with temper and moderation to promote the good ends for which you are aſſembled, the Advancement of Religion, and the Service of Almighty GOD; that you will avoid all unneceſſary debates and contentions, and that your deliberations will be directed to the means of checking the growth of vice and impiety, of promoting the practice of all Chriſtian Duties, and of keeping alive that reſpect and regard for the Clergy, and that deference and ſubordination to the Magi-

ſtracy, which are eſſential to the Peace and good Order of every Society, and muſt always be conducive to the Happineſs and Proſperity of this Kingdom.

You will no doubt ſtudy to impreſs upon the minds of Our Subjects, a juſt ſenſe of the many Bleſſings they at preſent enjoy under the favour of Providence, that by manifeſting a ſpirit of Devotion, a reſpect for the Laws, and an attention to the various duties of Our Holy Religion, they may render themſelves worthy of ſuch Bleſſings, and beſt inſure the future continuance of them.

We have again appointed Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to repreſent Our Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, being well ſatisfied with his upright and faithful conduct in the execution of that important truſt, and not doubting but he muſt continue to be acceptable to you from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the intereſts of Religion, which he has manifeſted on ſo many former occaſions.

We take this opportunity of repeating to you Our earneſt exhortations, that you will proceed in the buſineſs before you with that unanimity, charity and brotherly love, which truly become ſuch an Aſſembly, and without which no real dignity or utility can attend your deliberations: And We truſt that you will bring this meeting to a happy concluſion. And ſo We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 7th day of May 1792, in the 32d year of Our Reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

HENRY DUNDAS.

Addreſſed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

May it please Your Majesty,

THE most gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with that respect and gratitude which are due for so signal a mark of Your Royal condescension and favour.

We offer our most sincere and humble acknowledgements for the confidence Your Majesty has been pleased to repose in our loyalty and affection to Your Person and Government, and in our zeal for the encouragement of True Religion and Virtue. We beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that we come together at present, possessed of the same dispositions and principles which have regulated our conduct on former occasions. While we regard the approbation of our Sovereign as a most agreeable recompence for our past services, we trust that the hope of being again honoured with it, will animate us to a steady perseverance in our endeavours to promote the Happiness of Your Reign, and the true interests of the Church of which we are Members.

That your Majesty continues to countenance our Meetings with Your Royal Authority, we consider as a most satisfactory proof of Your paternal Goodness; and we rely, with the most perfect security, on Your fixed determination to maintain the Church of Scotland in the perfect enjoyment of all her just Rights and Privileges.

Assembled for the advancement of True Religion, and the Service of Almighty GOD, we shall apply ourselves with temper and moderation, to promote these good ends. We shall endeavour to avoid all unnecessary

ſary debates and contentions, as not more diſpleaſing to Your Majeſty, than diſhonourable to ourſelves, and inconſiſtent with the wiſdom that is from above; and we ſhall bear in mind the ſpecial obligations we are laid under, to direct all our deliberations to the means of checking the growth of vice and impiety, of promoting the practice of all Chriſtian Duties, and of keeping alive among all ranks of men committed to our charge, that reſpect and regard for the Clergy, and that deference and ſubordination to the Magiſtracy, which are eſſential to the peace and good order of any Society, which muſt always be conducive to the happineſs and proſperity of this Kingdom, and which invariably mark the character of the followers of the Prince of Peace.

In our ſeveral ſtations, we ſhall uſe our beſt endeavours to impreſs upon the minds of Your Majeſty's ſubjects, a juſt ſenſe of the many important bleſſings they at preſent enjoy under the favour of Providence; and we ſhall ſtrenuouſly inculcate upon them, that by manifeſting a ſpirit of Devotion, a reſpect for the Laws, and an attention to the various duties of our Holy Religion, they will moſt ſuitably expreſs their gratitude to that GOD who hath dealt ſo bountifully with them, and take the moſt effectual method to enſure a continuance of His bleſſing and protection.

We rejoice in the renewed expreſſion of Your Majeſty's zeal for the propagation of the Reformed Proteſtant Religion in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland; and it ſhall be our care, by a faithful application of the ſum Your Majeſty hath graciouſly beſtowed, to fulfil the pious and benevolent intentions of the Royal Donor.

The unfeigned attachment of the Right Honourable the Earl of LEVEN to Your Majeſty's ſacred Perſon and Government, his approved fidelity and uprightneſs in the execution of the important truſt with which he hath formerly been veſted, that zealous and affectionate regard to the civil and religious intereſts of his country, by which he and his anceſtors have been diſtinguiſhed, his amiable character in private life, and his good offices to ourſelves, render your Majeſty's re-appointment of him to repreſent Your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly entirely acceptable to us; and for this particular teſtimony of Your Royal favour towards us, we feel, and deſire to expreſs moſt cordial gratitude.

Convinced

Convinced that unanimity, charity, and brotherly love, truly become our Aſſembly, and that without them no real dignity or utility can attend our deliberations, we are ſolicitous to be poſſeſſed of thoſe qualities when we proceed in the buſineſs more immediately before us; and we ſhall ſtudy ſo to comply with Your Majeſty's earneſt and moſt wiſe exhortations, as to bring our preſent Meeting to a happy concluſion.

That the God and Father of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, may eſtabliſh Your Throne in righteouſneſs, and in the hearts of Your people,—that He may long preſerve Your Majeſty the Guardian of religion and liberty,—that He may enrich Your Royal Conſort, our moſt gracious QUEEN, with all Heavenly Bleſſings,—that His Divine Favour may attend his Royal Highneſs the PRINCE OF WALES, and all Your Royal Family,—that Your Deſcendents, to the lateſt poſterity, may ſway the Sceptre over a free, a loyal, and a happy people,—and that when He ſhall call You hence, full of years and of glory, he may give you a Kingdom which cannot be moved,—are the prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient, and moſt loyal ſubjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, May 19. 1792. ANDREW HUNTER, *Moderator.*

IV.

The General Aſſembly's congratulatory Addreſs to his Majeſty upon the Marriage of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York with the Princeſs Royal of Pruſſia.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WE Your Majeſty's moſt loyal and dutiful ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Aſſembly of this National Church, embrace the firſt opportunity of approaching the Throne, with our reſpectful congratulations upon the marriage of his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York with the Princeſs Royal of Pruſſia.

We rejoice in every event which contributes to the domeſtic felicity of the Father of his people; and we regard the auſpicious union of a Britiſh Prince with the Daughter of our illuſtrious Proteſtant Ally, as an additional ſecurity to the Proteſtant ſucceſſion.

That Your Majeſty may long continue to reign in the hearts of a free and happy people,—that the Almighty may pour down his choiceſt bleſſings upon the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Ducheſs of York, and all the branches of the Royal Family,—that Princes of the Houſe of Hanover, formed upon Your Majeſty's example, may, in every ſucceeding age, ſway the Britiſh Sceptre with the ſame moderation and renown,—and that, under their protection, the inhabitants of Great Britain may, to lateſt poſterity, derive from that excellent conſtitution, by which, through the favour of Providence, we are diſtinguiſhed amongſt the nations of the earth, the ſame full meaſure of religious and civil liberty which we at preſent enjoy,

and

and for which we daily bleſs the GOD of our Fathers, —are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient, and moſt loyal ſubjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

Edinburgh, May 19. 1792. } ANDREW HUNTER, *Moderator.*

V.

COMMISSION of the General Aſſembly to certain Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1792. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commiſſion and appoint the Reverend Dr ANDREW HUNTER, one of the Miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Preſbytery* of *Annan*, Mr James Smail at Dornock, Mr Alexander Monilaws at Kirkpatrick, *Miniſters;* James Carruthers of Warmanbie, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr William Little at Weſterkirk,

erkirk, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, *Miniſters*; Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Mr Robert Little at Applegarth, Mr Andrew Jaffray at Lochmaben, *Miniſters*; Mr John Jaffray, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr William Grierſon at Glencairn, Mr John MacKell at Durriſdeer, *Miniſters*; Mr Robert Edgar in Kirkland of Morton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Sanquhar*, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr James MacMillan at Torthorwald, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Mr Theodore Keyden at Terreagles, *Miniſters*; Robert Riddell of Glenriddel, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*: From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Fergusſon, Eſq; of Craigdarroch, advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr John Gilleſpie at Kells, Mr John Johnſton at Croſsmichael, Mr James Thomſon at Balmaclellan, *Miniſters*; John Gordon, Eſq; of Carleton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Eſq; of Barley:—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Goſpel:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Wigton*, Dr James Laing at Glaſſerton, Mr John Steven at Mochrum, *Miniſters*; Mr John Stewart at Balcroſh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, George Cranſton, Eſq; of Dewar:—From the *Burgh* of *Whitborn*, John Buſhby, Eſq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, *Miniſters*; Thomas Adair of Genoch, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Mr John Ramſay at Kirkmichael, Mr George Smith at Galſton, Mr Stephen Young at Barr, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, *Miniſters*; John Hamilton, Eſq; of Bargeny, Thomas Kennedy, Eſq; of Dunure, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusſon, Eſq; advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr Thomas Pollock at Kilwinning, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, *Miniſters*; the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Paiſley*, Mr John Monteith *ſenior* at Houſton, Mr John Forreſt at Port Glaſgow, Mr Stevenſon MacGill at Eaſtwood, Mr Walter Young

Young at Erſkine, *Miniſters;* Robert Davidſon, Eſq; advocate, Mr Alexander Dunn, ſkinner in Paiſley, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr James French at Kilbride, Dr Alexander Hutchiſon at Hamilton, Mr Robert Claſon at Dalziel, *Miniſters;* Profeſſor George Jardine, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr James Gray at Lanark, Mr James Hall at Leſmahago, *Miniſters;* Profeſſor Archibald Arthur, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Eſq; of Caſtlebank:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Glaſgow*, Dr William Taylor at Glaſgow, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, Mr John Pollock at Govan, Mr Adam Forman at Carmunnock, *Miniſters;* Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, John Corbet, Eſq; of Tolcroſs, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *City* of *Glaſgow*, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; advocate:—From the *Univerſity* of *Glaſgow*, Mr John Young, Profeſſor of Greek in the College of Glaſgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Rutherglen*, John Connel, Eſq; advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr James Couper at Badernock, Mr Alexander MacAulay at Cardroſs, Mr Gavin Gibb at Strathblane, *Miniſters;* the Right Honourable the Lord Preſident, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; younger of Succoth:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Dugald MacDougall at Lochgoilhead, *Miniſters;* John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr George Robertſon at Campbelton, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Francis Stewart at Jura and Colonſay, *Miniſters;* Archibald MacDonald, Eſq; of Sanda, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell, Eſq; of Fairfield:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Inverary*, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Lauchlan MacLauchlan at Craigniſh, *Miniſters;* David Campbell of Combie, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Inverary*, Profeſſor James Williamſon, Glaſgow:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchattan, Dr Joſeph MacIntyre at Glenorchy, *Miniſters;* John Campbell, Eſq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Norman MacLeod at Morvern, Mr Dugal Campbell at Kilfinichen, *Miniſters;* Allan MacDougal of Hayfield, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr James-Peter Bannerman at

Cargill, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, *Miniſters;* Thomas Elder, Eſq; of Forneth, David Stewart, Eſq; Banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders:* — From the *Preſbytery* of *Perth*, Mr David Beatſon at Dumbarnie, Mr John Dow at Methven, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, Mr William Lang at Arngaſk, *Miniſters;* Mr John Caw, merchant, late Provoſt of Perth, Mr James Dickſon, bookſeller in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Muſchet at Stirling, *Miniſters;* William Morehead, Eſq; of Herbertſhire, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Stirling*, William Anderſon, Eſq; eldeſt bailie of the burgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr James Ramſay at Maderty, Mr John Baird at Dunning, *Miniſters;* the Honourable Henry Erſkine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Robert Stirling at Dunblane, Mr Patrick Murray at Kilmadock, *Miniſters;* Profeſſor William Richardſon, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinroſs, Mr Walter MacAlpine at Culroſs, Mr Allan MacLean at Dunfermline, *Miniſters;* Sir Charles Preſton of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcaldie*, Mr George Willis at Leſlie, Mr John Uſher at Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, *Miniſters;* Alexander Park, Eſq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Burntiſland*, Mr James Reid, ſchoolmaſter at Burntiſland:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmeny, Mr Andrew Walker at Colleſſie, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr William Gourlay at Fliſk, *Miniſters;* the Reverend Mr Thomas Campbell, morning lecturer in Edinburgh, Mr George Tod, tenant at Moonzie, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *Cupar*, Major John Melvill of Cairney:—From the *Preſbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Mr Alexander Small at Kilconquhar, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College, and ſecond miniſter of St Andrew's, Mr James MacDonald at Kemback, Mr James Burn at Forgan, *Miniſters;* Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilly, Dr James Flint, profeſſor of medicine in St Andrew's, *Ruling Elders:*—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Andrew Duncan, Profeſſor of Medicine in the Univerſity of Edinburgh:—

burgh:—From the *Univerſity* of *St Andrew's*, Principal MacCormick, St Andrew's:—From the *Burgh* of *Pittenweem*, Mr Matthew Comb *ſenior*, brewer in Leith:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Anſtruther Weſter*, Mr William MacCormick, late merchant in North Carolina, now reſiding in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr James Johnſton at Blairgowrie, Mr James Donald at Glenisla, *Miniſters*; Sir William Ramſay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr David Fernie at Kinnettles, Mr Thomas Wright at Roſcobie, *Miniſters*; Alexander Watſon, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Eſq;—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dundee*, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr James Adamſon at Abernyte, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouſe, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Pitcairn, inſurance-broker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr John Gowans at Lunan, *Miniſters*; the Right Honourable William Earl of Northeſk, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Burgh* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr James Lawder at Dun, Mr James Wilſon at Marytoun, Mr John Waugh at Menmuir, *Miniſters*; James Wauchope, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Eſq; advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kinneff, Mr James Walker at Dunnottar, Mr William Walker at Eccleſgreig, *Miniſters*; John Burnet, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Mr James Hogg at Skene, Mr James Shirrefs at Aberdeen, Mr Alexander John Forſyth at Belhelvie, Mr Hugh Hay at Aberdeen, *Miniſters*; William Robertſon, Eſq; advocate, procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Eſq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Mariſchall College Aberdeen*, Dr Robert Hamilton, Profeſſor of Philoſophy in that Univerſity;—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kincardin O'Neal*, Mr Robert Michy at Cluny, Mr Charles MacHardy at Crathy, Mr Alexander Robertſon at Coul, *Miniſters*; William MacDonald of Rineaton, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Alford*, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr Andrew Marſhall at Tullyneſle, *Miniſters*; James Gordon, Eſq;

Eſq; younger of Craig:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, *Miniſters;* Profeſſor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Mr George Skene Keith at Keithhall, Mr John Harper at Leſlie, *Miniſters;* William Gordon younger of Rothney, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Deer*, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr James Greig at Pitſligo, Mr William Greig at Longſide, *Miniſters;* Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr George Abel at Drumblade, Mr Thomas Wilſon at Gamrie, *Miniſters;* Bailie James Moriſon, merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, *Miniſters;* Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:* From the *Burgh* of *Cullen*, John Gordon younger of Cairnfield, Eſq; advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, *Miniſters;* Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr George Cruckſhank at Rothes, *Miniſters;* Iſaac Grant, Eſq; of Hilton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Anderſon at Kinguiſie, *Miniſters;* Dr Gregory Grant, Phyſician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr Joſeph Anderſon at Birnie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, *Miniſters;* Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, William Scott, Eſq; Banker in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forres*, Mr John MacDonnel at Edinkillie, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, *Miniſters;* Robert Urquhart, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Pryſe Campbell at Arderſier, Mr John Moriſon at Nairn, *Miniſters;* Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Inverneſs*, Mr George Watſon at Inverneſs, Mr Alexander Gordon at Daviot, *Miniſters;* Simon Fraſer of Faralin, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Roderick MacKenzie at Kilmuir Weſter, Mr David Denoon at Killearnen, *Miniſters;* Convener John Lindſay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tain*, Mr George Douglas

glas at Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, *Miniſters*; Charles Roſs, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Tain*, Robert Colt, Eſq; of Auldhame:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr John Fraſer at Kilmorack, Mr Donald Mackenzie at Fodderty, *Miniſters*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Miniſters*; William Tait, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Martin MacPherſon at Slate, Mr Malcolm MacLeod at Snizort, *Miniſters*; the Right Honourable Alexander Lord MacDonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John MacQueen at Applecroſs, Mr Lauchlan MacKenzie at Lochcarron, *Miniſters*; Colonel Norman MacLeod of MacLeod, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr George Rannie at Criech, Mr Æneas MacLeod at Rogart, *Miniſters*; Robert Bruce Æneas MacLeod of Cadboll, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tong*, Mr William MacKenzie at Tong, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Miniſters*; Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Caithneſs*, Mr Patrick Nicolſon at Thurſo, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Miniſters*; John Dickſon, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, James Horne, Eſq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall and St Olay, Mr James Watſon at South Ronaldſhay, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Eſq; advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cairſtone*, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Malcolm at Firth at Stenneſs, *Miniſters*; Mr Richard Richardſon, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *North Iſles*, Mr Alexander Pitcairn at Shapenſhay, Mr James Izat at Weſtray and Papa Weſtray, *Miniſters*; John Grieve, Eſq; Commiſſioner of his Majeſty's Board of Exciſe, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr James Gordon at Fetlar, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr John Erſkine, Edinburgh, Dr David Johnſton, North Leith, Mr James Robertſon at Ratho, Dr Thomas Hardie, Edinburgh, Mr Archibald Bonar, Crammond, *Miniſters*; Allan MacConochie, Eſq; advocate, Donald Smith,

Eſq; Banker, Edinburgh, William Simpſon, Eſq; caſhier to the Royal Bank of Scotland, *Ruling Elders:* —From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable James Stirling, Lord Provoſt of the City, Mr Orlando Hart, firſt Trades Councillor:—From the *Univerſity* of *Edinburgh*, Dr John Walker, *Miniſter* at *Collington*, and Regius Profeſſor of Natural Hiſtory in ſaid Univerſity:—From the *Church* of *Campvere*, Mr James Likly at Campvere, Robert Allan, Eſq; Banker in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Henderſon at Queensferry, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr William Peterkin at Eccleſmachen, Mr Hugh Meiklejohn at Abercorn, *Miniſters;* Charles Hope, Eſq; advocate, William Maxwell of Carridden, Eſq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Eſq; his Majeſty's Solicitor-General for Scotland:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Mr Alexander MacNabb, one of the preſent Magiſtrates:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William Howe at Skirling, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, *Miniſters;* John Brown, Eſq; of Coultermains, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr Andrew Handyſide at Lyne, Mr Alexander Forreſter at Linton, *Miniſters;* James Montgomery, Eſq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Eſq;—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Mr Alexander Colvill at Ormiſton, Mr Walter Fiſher at Cranſton, Mr John Clunie at Borthwick, *Miniſters;* the Right Honourable Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Haddington*, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Dr Neil Roy at Aberlady, Mr Andrew Johnſton at Salton, *Miniſters;* John Hamilton, Eſq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Richard Somner, Eſq; preſent Dean of Guild of Haddington:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart.:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr Alexander Davidſon at Stenton, Mr John Cochran at Oldhamſtocks, *Miniſters;* John Anderſon, of Windygoul, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunſe*, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr John Sked at Abbey of St Bathens, *Miniſters;* Matthew Sandilands, Eſq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Churnſide*, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Dr Walter Anderſon at Churnſide, *Miniſters;* George Buchan of Kello, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—

From

From the *Preſbytery* of Kelſo, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Blackie at Yetholm, *Miniſters*; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, one of his Majeſty's Secretaries of State, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Mr John Hunter at Oxnam, *Miniſters*; the Reverend Dr Andrew Brown reſiding in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lauder*, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Dr James Ford at Lauder, *Miniſters*; Captain John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Frederick MacLagan at Melroſe, Mr James Hay at Roberton, *Miniſters*; William Elliot younger of Borthwickbrae, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Rochead, late merchant in Edinburgh:—And the GENERAL ASSEMBLY added thereto Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, one of the *Miniſters* of *St Cuthbert's*, in place of the Moderator, TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftner, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chuſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before Synods or Preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon the

the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet therof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force till diſapproved of by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſerted; and that they enquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith;* and that the recommenders of ſuch books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to Synods and Preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe, to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authoriſed by this Church, relaing to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correſpondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they

ſhall

ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies one thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and one thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly one thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix.—And if the Commiſſion approve of the report to be made to them by the Committee appointed by this Aſſembly, to conſider the propoſals for a general augmentation of the parochial ſtipends, &c. they are hereby ſpecially empowered and inſtructed to make application to the Legiſlature, for obtaining an act of Parliament for the purpoſes therein mentioned.

See Abridgment, end of Seſſ. 9.

VI.

COMMISSION to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that end.

Edinburgh, May Seſſ.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, and appoint the Reverend Dr ANDREW HUNTER, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr James Smail at Dornock, Mr William Little at Weſterkirk, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Dr Bryce Johnſton at Holywood, Mr John Johnſton at Croſsmichael, Dr James Laing at Glaſſerton, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr Stevenſon MacGill at Eaſtwood, Mr James French at Kilbride, Mr James Gray at Lanark, Dr William Taylor at Glaſgow, Mr Alexander MacAulay at Cardroſs, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Dr Joſeph MacIntyre at Glenorchy, Mr Norman MacLeod at Morvern, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, Mr John Dow at Methven, Mr John Muſchet at Stirling, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Dunblane, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinroſs, Mr George Willis at Leſly, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Dr George Hill, St Andrew's, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr John Gowans at Lunan, Mr James Wilſon at Maryton, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kinneff, Mr Hugh Hay at Aberdeen, Mr Robert Michy at Cluny,

Cluny, Mr Charles MacHardy at Crathy, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr George Abel at Drumblade, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John MacDonnell at Edinkillie, Mr John Morison at Nairn, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr David Denoon at Killearnan, Mr George Douglas at Tain, Mr Donald MacKenzie at Fodderty, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr Martin MacPherson at Slate, Mr John MacQueen at Applecross, Mr George Rannie at Criech, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, Mr William Smith at Bower, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr James Izat at Westray, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Mr Bernard Haldan at Glenholm, Mr Andrew Handyside at Lyne, Mr John Clunie at Borthwick, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Mr James Hay at Roberton, *Ministers;* Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, Mr John Jeffray, writer in Edinburgh, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; advocate, John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, Mr Horatius Cannan, writer to the Signet, Mr John Bushby, Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries, Mr Thomas Adair, writer to the Signet, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh, John Hamilton, Esq; of Bargeny, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate, the Honourable Patrick Boyle, Robert Davidson, Esq; advocate, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate, Professor John Young, Glasgow, John Connel, Esq; advocate, the Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth, Archibald MacDonald, Esq; of Sanda, William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield, Allan MacDougall of Hayfield, Esq; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, Mr James Dickson, bookseller, Edinburgh, William Morehead, Esq; of Herbertshire, the Dean of Faculty, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, Sir Charles Preston, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh, Mr William MacCormick, Sir William Ramsay, Bart. Mr Alexander Pitcairn, insurance-broker, the Earl of Northesk, Mr Thomas

mas Duncan, writer, James Wauchope, Eſq; advocate, Adam Gillies, Eſq; advocate, John Burnet, Eſq; advocate, the Procurator, William MacDonald of Rineaton, Eſq; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Bailie James Moriſon, merchant in Leith, Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, Mr Baron Gordon, Iſaac Grant, Eſq; of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant, phyſician in Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, Mr William Scott, banker in Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, Simon Fraſer, Eſq; of Faraline, Convener John Lindſay, Edinburgh, Charles Roſs, Eſq; advocate, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, William Tait, Eſq; advocate, Lord MacDonald, Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, John Dickſon, Eſq; advocate, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Youngſon, writer in Edinburgh, Malcolm Laing, Eſq; advocate, Mr Richard Richardſon, merchant in Edinburgh, Commiſſioner Grieve, Profeſſor Dalzel, Allan MacConochie, Eſq; Donald Smith, Eſq; William Simpſon, Eſq; the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, Mr Robert Allan, banker, Charles Hope, Eſq; advocate, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Eſq; advocate, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Eſq; the Lord Advocate, Matthew Sandilands, Eſq; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, William Elliot, Eſq; advocate, Mr James Rochead, late merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders;* TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of His Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts, to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be the moſt proper, according to His Majeſty's deſign, expreſſed in His warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes, in South Uiſt, Small Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good

good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of the Preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly obſerved by them. And the Preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the Catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the Preachers and Catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Aſſemblies: And to take care that Preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral Preſbyteries to inſert in their regiſters, the Committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the Preſbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the Preſbyteries, bearing, That they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechiſt who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the pariſhioners or gentlemen of the diſtrict ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to

the Caſhier, a declaration that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the Preſbytery ſhall in like manner bear, that the Catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no ſuch declaration of the Catechiſt, or atteſtation of the Preſbytery, as is now propoſed, is received by the Caſhier, ſhall be afterwards ſuppreſſed by the Committee, though the Catechiſt ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the ſalary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the miniſtry, of the miſſion committed to him, be written on the back of the Preſbytery's certificate, and ſigned by him, as the ground on which the Preſbytery have granted him ſaid certificate. The General Aſſembly do alſo empower the ſaid Committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be miniſters; and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their firſt general meeting at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the firſt of the ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly; their ſecond meeting (which is for fixing the annual ſcheme), upon the ſecond Thurſday of July, with power to thoſe members who ſhall then be preſent, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the firſt lawful days after the ſtated meetings of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, in November and March, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday

next

next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods aod Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter, againſt the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot

cannot complete it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible. And empowered the Committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid Committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, *&c.* do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

VII.

Recommendation and Injunction anent the ſending up of Synod Books to the Aſſembly.

Edinburgh, May 21. 1792. *Seſſ.* 4.

NONE of the Synod-books, nor the Preſbytery-book of Zetland, except the Synod-book of Fife, and the Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale, being produced to this Aſſembly; the General Aſſembly recommends to the ſeveral Synods to be punctual in ſending up their books for the future; enjoins the Synod-clerks to attend to this recommendation as they ſhall be anſwerable for their conduct to the Aſſembly; and ordains that this recommendation and injunction be inſerted among the printed Acts of the Aſſembly.

VIII.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *agreeable to a former reſolution, proceeded to conſider the Report of the Committee on the Overture reſpecting the licenſing of Probationers; and having heard the amendments made on the printed Overture read over one by one, the Aſſembly did, after maturely conſidering the ſame, adopt them, with a few corrections and alterations: And the Aſſembly having reſolved to tranſmit this Overture, ſo amended, to the different Preſbyteries, that they may ſend up their opinions* de novo *on the various parts thereof, to the next General Aſſembly, the ſame is hereby tranſmitted accordingly, as follows:*

New Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seſſ.* 8.

THE General Aſſembly having taken under their ſerious conſideration, the great danger to which the intereſts of Religion and of this Church may be expoſed, by licenſing any to preach the Goſpel, who are not duly qualified for that important truſt, do hereby enact, and ordain, That, in all time coming, the following regulations ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student ſhall be entered upon the Roll of any Profeſſor of Divinity, unleſs he ſhall produce to the ſaid Profeſſor a certicate from the Miniſter of the pariſh in which he has his uſual reſidence; or in his abſence, or during a vacancy in ſaid pariſh, from ſome neighbouring Miniſter, bearing, that his character is ſuitable to his views; together with a diploma of Maſter of Arts, or certificates from the ſeveral Profeſſors of Philoſophy, under whom he hath ſtudied, from which it may be clearly aſcertained, that in ſome Univerſity or Univerſities, he hath gone through a full courſe of Philo-

ſophy, in ſome winter-ſeſſions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Profeſſors of Divinity, in the manner preſcribed by this act, ſhall continue to proſecute the ſtudy of Divinity, for the term of ſix Seſſions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in four Seſſions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in five Seſſions. And the Aſſembly do farther ordain, That in each of theſe caſes, Students ſhall be inrolled by the Profeſſors during the ſeveral Seſſions of their reſpective Courſes, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegeſis in Latin, on ſome controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in Engliſh, an Exerciſe and Addition, a Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with ſuch other Exerciſes as the Profeſſors ſhall think proper to preſcribe. And the Aſſembly farther enact, and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Profeſſor for his certificates, that he may be propoſed for trials, and that the preliminary ſteps may be taken by the Preſbytery, during the currency of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe, as above deſcribed; with this limitation, that if the ſaid laſt Seſſion is to be claimed as a Seſſion of regular attendance, he ſhall, towards the concluſion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the ſame to the Preſbytery, or Synod.

III. Profeſſors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumſtances may permit, to the conduct of ſuch Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to inſiſt, that every Student ſhall deliver his firſt Diſcourſe ſome time during his ſecond Seſſion, at the lateſt, and the remainder of his Diſcourſes at ſuch periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January, of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe.

IV.

IV. When a Student is propoſed to any Preſbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Preſbytery ſhall be alone, and the motion for that purpoſe ſhall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Preſbytery ſhall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been propoſed, to lay before the ſaid meeting the certificate, or certificates in favour of the Student, that are ſpecified in the third paragraph of the fifth ſection of this Act; to deſire him to attend the ſame; and to inform him, that, previouſly to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumſtances may permit, to wait on ſuch Miniſters of the Preſbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of converſing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for conſidering the motion is arrived, the Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following regulations:

1ſt, The Preſbytery ſhall be alone, while they are employed in diſcuſſing the ſeveral preliminaries reſpecting Students who are propoſed for trials.

2d, They ſhall require ſatisfying evidence, that every Student who is propoſed for that purpoſe, has completed the twenty-firſt year of his age.

3d, No Student ſhall be admitted to trials, unleſs he produces to the Preſbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Profeſſor or Profeſſors of Divinity, under whoſe tuition he hath ſtudied, bearing, that he hath proſecuted his ſtudies, and delivered his Diſcourſes, in the manner preſcribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as conſiſts with the knowledge of the ſaid Profeſſor, or Profeſſors, has been in every reſpect ſuitable to his views in life. And the General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact, That the Preſbytery ſhall record at full length the ſaid certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged ſuch certificate, or certificates, ſhall be entitled to obtain extracts of the ſame, if demanded.

4th, No Preſbytery ſhall receive any Student upon trials, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he is of good report; ſound in his principles; pious, ſober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable diſpoſition; and well affected to the happy eſtabliſhment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Preſbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter

matter of ſuch peculiar importance, they ſhall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unleſs his reſidence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he ſhall produce ſufficient teſtimonials from the Preſbytery, in whoſe bounds his reſidence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is ſuch as is deſcribed in the immediately preceding ſentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in theſe reſpects, to the Preſbytery before whom the propoſal is made, as a proper perſon to be entered upon trials.

5*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unleſs they are ſatisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in thoſe ſeveral branches of knowledge, which are neceſſary to enable him to be an uſeful Preacher of the Goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ordain, that the Preſbytery, in order to procure full information in this reſpect, ſhall examine the Student, ſtrictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philoſophy and Theology.

6*th*, If after theſe preliminary ſteps have been taken, the Preſbytery ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in theſe ſeveral particulars, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the ſeveral Preſbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at leaſt before the meeting of the ſame, informing them of the Preſbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of ſuch Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have theſe circular letters written half a-year ſooner than would be otherwiſe competent.

VI. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact and declare, That, at the requeſt of the Student, it ſhall be competent to any Preſbytery to transfer the receiving of the public trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Preſbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary ſteps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that ſuch parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII.

VII. If a Student hath ſtudied, either in whole or in part, in Proteſtant Univerſities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he ſhall, when he is propoſed to any Preſbytery for trials, be required to produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the Profeſſors of Divinity in ſaid Univerſities; and the time which theſe Profeſſors ſhall certify to have been employed by him in ſtudying Divinity under their tuition, ſhall be computed in the ſame manner as if he had proſecuted his ſtudies in any of the Univerſities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in ſuch circumſtances, ſhall be admitted even to thoſe private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, ſooner than ſix kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Aſſembly ordain, That if a preſbytery propoſe to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof ſhall be made at ſome diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which ſhall not be the laſt diet thereof: And the Preſbytery clerk is hereby required to tranſmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates laid before the Preſbytery, in favour of the Student, in order that the ſame may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewiſe hereby ordained, That at ſome ſubſequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry ſhall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer againſt the Student being entered upon public trials: And that the Synod then taking into conſideration, the extract produced, and the whole of the caſe, ſhall judge of the expediency of allowing the Preſbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if in any caſe the Preſbytery clerk ſhall fail to tranſmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himſelf, or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the ſame, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod ſhall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Preſbytery ſhall proceed therein with all convenient ſpeed; and the Aſſembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1*ſt*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church Hiſtory; 2*d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages;

3*d*, An Exegeſis in Latin on ſome controverted Head in Divinity; 4*th*, A Homily in Engliſh; 5*th*, An Exerciſe and Addition; 6*th*, A Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture; 7*th*, A popular Sermon; it being underſtood, that if the Preſbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral Diſcourſes.

X. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Preſbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:

1*ſt*, They ſhall, deliberately and ſeriouſly, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall, by no means, grant him a Licence, in his preſent circumſtances.

2*d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Preſbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3*d*, The Preſbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions that are appointed to be put to all who paſs Trials by act 10th Aſſembly 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula* which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Preſbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*.

4*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall order the Act of Aſſembly 1759, againſt Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

Laſtly, The Preſbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licence.

XI. For the better obſervance of this act, the General aſſembly ordain, 1*ſt*, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts; 2*d*, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; 3*d*, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be tranſmitted to each Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect

pect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that Seſſion; and, *laſtly*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to the clerks of each Synod, and Preſbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the ſaid clerks ſhall keep the ſame along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their reſpective Courts, for the uſe of the Members.

IX.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1792. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE ASSEMBLY *recommends to Preſbyteries to take the following Overture into conſideration at an early diet, and ſend up their opinions upon the ſame to next Aſſembly.*

Overture reſpecting the Annexation and Suppreſſion of Pariſhes.

THAT the Aſſembly, in all propoſed caſes of annexation and ſuppreſſion, do enjoin Preſbyteries to communicate to the Synod or the bounds the propoſal that is made; that although it does not appear to them proper for the Church to give any oppoſition, it ſhall not be competent for them to expreſs their conſent to the propoſed annexation and ſuppreſſion, either by a deliverance in their minutes, or at the bar of the court of teinds, until they have obtainedthe conſent of the Synod of the bounds; and further, that when they reſolve to give oppoſition to any propoſed annexation or ſuppreſſion, they ſhall communicate their reſolution, together with the grounds of their oppoſition, and the directions which they have given thereanent, to the Synod of the bounds.

X.

X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1792. *Sess. ult.*

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 16th day of May, 1793.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

TABLE

TABLE of the Printed ACTS of the General Aſſembly, held in the Year 1792.

Page.

I. *THE King's Commiſſion to* DAVID *Earl of* LEVEN *produced, and ordered to be recorded,* - 3

II. *The King's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by His Majeſty's Commiſſioner,* - - - 5

III. *The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter,* - - 7

IV. *The General Aſſembly's Addreſs to His Majeſty, upon the marriage of His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York with the Princeſs Royal of Pruſſia,* - - - 10

V. *Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly to certain Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing Affairs referred to them,* - - 11

VI. *Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that end,* - 22

VII. *Recommendation and Injunction anent the ſending up of Synod-books to the Aſſembly,* - 28

VIII. *New Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers,* - - - 29

IX. *Overture reſpecting the Annexation and Suppreſſion of Pariſhes,* - - 35

X. *Act appointing the diet of the next General Aſſembly,* - - - 36

ABRIDGMENT

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1792, which are not printed at full length.

Thurſday, May 17. 1792. *Seſſ.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr ROBERT SMALL, one of the Miniſters of Dundee, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe in the uſual manner: And, after prayer by the ſaid Dr Robert Small, the Reverend Dr ANDREW HUNTER, one of the Miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, being unanimouſly choſen Moderator, he, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The KING's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commiſſioner's ſpeech at the opening of the Aſſembly, and the Moderator's ſpeech in return thereto.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

A congratulatory addreſs to his Majeſty on the marriage of his Royal Higneſs the Duke of York with the Princeſs Royal of Pruſſia; agreed to and a Committee appointed to prepare the ſame.

A Committee named for reviſing the Commiſſions to the Members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof, naming Miniſters to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner, and receiving Liſts of Probationers in the ſeveral Preſbyteries in order to their being recerded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 18. 1792. *Seſſ.* 2.

Sederunt.

A diet ſpent in prayer.

New Commiſſions produced.

Act VII. of the Aſſembly 1718. for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.

Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Committee for reviſing Commiſſions appointed to meet this evening at a quarter before ſeven o'clock.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at ſeven o'clock, in the uſual places.

Adjournment.

Saturday May 19. 1792. *Seſſ.* 3.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Report of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly on the overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

See Printed Acts, No. III. The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

and No. IV. The draught of the congratulatory addreſs to his Majeſty on the marriage of his Royal Higneſs the Duke of York with the Princeſs Royal of Pruſſia, being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, likewiſe undertook to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The Report of the Committee for overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Preſbytery of Paiſley, "That it is dated on the 28th of February, which is "nine days too ſoon, or before the 70 days; and that a "Member ſtated this to be a miſtake of the Preſbytery "Clerk, as it was conſiſtent with his knowledge, that the "election was made on the 28th of March." And the Record of the Preſbytery, which had been ſent for, being produced, and the election having been found really to have been made on the 28th of March, the Aſſembly ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Burgh of New Galloway, "That the words *as an Elder*, are omitted in "the Commiſſion itſelf, though found in the atteſtations "of the Kirk-ſeſſion and Preſbytery." The Aſſembly unanimouſly repelled the objection, and ſuſtained the Commiſſion.

The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the cauſe of Inverkeithing on Monday, and the cauſe againſt the Miniſter of Girthon, as the firſt private cauſe on Tueſday.

A Committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly.

A Committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A Committee named to audite and reviſe the accounts of the procurator and agent for the Church, and other public accounts,

counts, conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the ſeveral Members, any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Aſſembly, and to receive and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superſtition, and prepare overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

The Committee of bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 21. 1792. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures, called for, given in, and read.

The reports on the overtures reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers re-committed.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

Synod-books called for.

A Committee appointed to reviſe the Synod-book of Fife.

None of the other Synod-books, nor the Preſbytery-book of Zetland being produced, the Aſſembly recommend to the ſeveral Synods to be punctual in ſending up their books for the future; and enjoin the Synod-clerks to attend to this recommendation, as they ſhall be anſwerable for their conduct to the Aſſembly; and that this recommendation and injunction be inſerted in the printed Acts of the Aſſembly. See Printed Acts, No. VII.

The cauſe of Inverkeithing delayed till Wedneſday.

Agree to take up the cauſe of Gigha to-morrow, if there is time after the cauſe of Girthon.

The Committee for conſidering of a Monument to the Memory of the late Dr Webſter appointed to meet this evening.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Tueſday, May 22. 1792. *Seſſ.* 5.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

The report of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly to conſider of a Monument to the Memory of the late Dr Webſter, was given in, and read.

The report of the Committee on the Horſe-tax was given in, and read, and agreed to be conſidered on Thurſday.

The report of the Committee for overtures was called for, given in, and read.

The conſideration of the overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers, which had been appointed for Thurſday, delayed till Friday; and the overure reſpecting the Slave-trade to be conſidered on Thurſday.

A Committee appointed to reviſe the Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale

Agreed to take up the cauſe of the pariſh of Contin on Friday, and the overture reſpecting the annexation and ſuppreſſion of pariſhes on Saturday.

The report of the Committee for bills was called for, given in, and read.

The Committees for reviſing the Commiſſion Record, and Royal Bounty Record, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

A reference by the Preſbytery of Kirkcudbright of the relevancy of a libel, at the inſtance of James Kirkpatrick in Gatehouſe, and others, elders and heads of families in the pariſh of Girthon, againſt Mr John Macnaught, Miniſter of the Goſpel at Girthon, heard: The Aſſembly found the libel relevant, and appointed the Preſbytery of Kirkcudbright to proceed to take probation, and to bring this cauſe to a concluſion, according to the rules of the Church.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

Wedneſday, May 23. 1792. *Seſſ.* 6.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Committees for bills, and on public accounts, &c. appointed to meet to-morrow.

An appeal at the inſtance of Mr Samuel Peat, preacher of the Goſpel, preſentee to the vacant pariſh of Gigha and Cara, from a ſentence of the Synod of Argyle, heard: The Aſſembly, after reaſoning without a vote, affirmed the ſentence of the Synod of Argyle, in ſo far as it finds, that the Preſbytery of Kintyre had full right and power to examine Mr Peat upon his knowledge of the Gaelic language, and that Mr Peat was in duty bound to ſubmit to ſuch examination: But in reſpect that the ſaid Mr Samuel Peat has declared, by his counſel at the bar of the Aſſembly, that he is ſenſible of the impropriety of his paſt conduct in diſobeying the Preſbytery of Kintyre and that he is now willing to ſubmit to their appointments, the Aſſembly remit Mr Peat to the ſaid Preſbytery, to be tried by them upon his knowledge of the Gaelic language; enjoin him to attend their firſt ordinary meeting upon Tueſday, the 17th day of July next, and recommend to the Preſbytery of Kintyre, if they find him properly qualified as to the Gaelic language, to proceed in his ſettlement, as Miniſter of the pariſh of Gigha and Cara, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

Dr William Porteous appeared at the bar, and intimated to the Aſſembly, that a complaint entered by him and others, againſt a ſentence of the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, in April laſt, allowing the Preſbytery of Hamilton to proceed to the probationary trials of Mr Ewing, was now fallen from. The Aſſembly therefore declared the ſaid complaint fallen from accordingly.

The

The Aſſembly heard a petition for Mr Andrew Robertſon, preacher, preſentee to the pariſh of Inverkeithing; a petition of the Magiſtrates, Guildry, and Town-council of the Burgh of Inverkeithing, and of the Incorporation of Tailors, &c. in the ſaid Burgh; the inhabitants of North Queensferry, &c.; and a petition of James Bell, &c. Members of the Kirk-ſeſſion of Inverkeithing. The Aſſembly then heard the parties on the preliminary point, Whether the two appeals ſhould be conſidered and judged of together or ſeparately: And after reaſoning, they heard parties on the firſt appeal of the 11th of October 1791, from the ſentence of the Synod of Fife, ſuſtaining the call to the preſentee; and they, without a vote, affirmed the ſentence of the Synod of Fife and Preſbytery of Dunfermline, ſuſtaining the call to Mr Andrew Robertſon, preſentee to the Church and pariſh of Inverkeithing, and remit to the Preſbytery of Dunfermline, to proceed to the ſettlement of the ſaid preſentee, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church. The Aſſembly next heard the parties on the ſecond appeal of the 10th of April 1792, and, without a vote, reverſed the ſentence of the Synod of Fife, finding, "That certain prerequiſites, previous to the giving the libel, "having been omitted by the libellers, the Preſbytery of "Dunfermline did right in rejecting the libel, on account "of this informal procedure." And in reſpect that Mr Robertſon, by his counſel, has at the bar declared, that he waves every objection in point of form which he might have ſtated reſpecting the ſervice; and that he has earneſtly craved, that the relevancy of the libel may be judged of with all poſſible expedition: The Aſſembly conſidering the ſaid conſent, and the other circumſtances of the caſe, appoint the Preſbytery of Dunfermline, to meet at Dunfermline on Friday next, at twelve o'clock; and, for that end, they appoint the Moderator of the ſaid Preſbytery, to iſſue Letters of Summons to the Members. And the Aſſembly ordain, that the libel ſhall then be put into the hands of Mr Robertſon, and that the ſame, conform to his conſent, ſhall be held as a legal ſervice; and appoint the Preſbytery immediately to proceed to hear parties on the relevancy, and either to pronounce judgment thereon, or refer the ſame to this Aſſembly; it being underſtood, that either party who may be diſſatisfied with the judgment of the Preſbytery to be pronounced on the relevancy may lodge an appeal to the Aſſembly on Saturday; or, if the Preſbytery ſhall refer the queſtion, on the relevancy, that ſuch reference may be then lodged, ſo that a final judgment may be given on the ſaid relevancy, before the riſing of this Aſſembly; and this ſentence is declared to be a ſufficient citation to all parties.

Adjournment.

Thurſday, May 24. 1792. *Seſſ.* 7.

Sederunt.

New Commiſſions produced.

A Letter and Petition, in name of a body of men, denominating themſelves the Scots Preſbytery in London, were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in, and read.

The Petition from the Preſbytery of Linlithgow, reſpecting an irregular marriage, remitted, with other Petitions for aid out of the public funds, to the Committee on public accounts.

After reaſoning upon the report of the Committee on the Horſe-tax, the Aſſembly having unanimouſly reſolved, That the caſe ſhould be tried by the courts of law, appointed a Committee to prepare a motion, reſpecting the moſt effectual method of carrying this reſolution into execution, and to report on Saturday.

Agreeable to a former reſolution, the Aſſembly proceeded to conſider the following overture, viz. "It is humbly overtured to the General Aſſembly, that they ſhould expreſs their abhorence of the injuſtice and cruelty of the African Slave-trade; their joy in the enlightened views which have been taken of this ſubject, and in the liberal ſentiments concerning it that have been expreſſed by the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament Aſſembled; and their ardent wiſhes, that this inhuman traffic may, by the bleſſing of Providence, be ſpeedily brought to a termination." Which overture the Aſſembly having taken under their conſideration, after reaſoning at conſiderable length, a motion was made and agreed to, without a vote: That the Aſſembly think themſelves again called upon to teſtify their abhorence of a ſyſtem of traffic, incompatible with the great principles of morality and religion, and attended with circumſtances of injuſtice and cruelty, ſhocking to the feelings of virtuous minds: To declare the ſatisfaction they have received, from the liberal views and ſentiments reſpecting this intereſting ſubject, entertained by people of every rank and denomination, and eſpecially by their repreſentatives in Parliament; and to expreſs their ardent wiſhes, and earneſt prayers, that this iniquitous trade may, by the bleſſing of divine Providence, upon the deliberations of Parliament, be ſpeedily and completely aboliſhed; that thus the national character may be vindicated from the charge of oppreſſion, the cauſe of public virtue promoted, and an example of humanity, and enlightened policy, given by Great Britain to the other countries of Europe. And the Aſſembly ordered this

this declartion to be printed at full length, in the Abridgment of the Actings and Proceedings of this Aſſembly.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 25. 1792. *Seſſ.* 8.

Sederunt.

The Committees for reviſing the Commiſſion Record, and Royal Bounty Record, and the Synod-books, appointed to make their reports to-morrow.

The report of the Committee on the overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers, maturely conſidered by the Aſſembly; and the ſame, as now amended and altered, ordered to be tranſmitted to Preſbyteries, that they may ſend up their opinions *de novo* on the various parts thereof to the next General Aſſembly; and the Clerks ordained to cauſe this overture to be printed ſeparately, and tranſmitted to the Moderators of the ſeveral Preſbyteries by poſt. See Printed Acts, No. VIII.

The report of the Truſtees of the Fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the fund under their management given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday: And, upon a motion, the thanks of the Houſe were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood for his fidelity, attention, and prudence, in the management of the fund.

The report of the Committee appointed to conſider the ſubject of a general augmentation of the parochial ſtipends, was given in, read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow, to be then conſidered.

An appeal at the inſtance of the Reverend Mr Alexander Calder, Moderator, for himſelf, and in name and behalf of the other Members of the Preſbytery of Dingwall; Francis Humberſtone Mackenzie, Eſq; of Seaforth, and other heritors of the pariſhes of Dingwall, Fodderty, and Contin, from a ſentence of the Synod of Roſs, reverſing a ſentence of the Preſbytery of Dingwall, delaying procedure in the ſettlement of Mr James Dallas in the church and pariſh of Contin: And a petition for William Munro, and others, elders and heads of families of the pariſh of Contin, concurring in the ſettlement of Mr Dallas, heard. The Aſſembly, after hearing parties upon the petition of William Munro, and others, find, "That this petition, not having been previouſly before the Synod of Roſs, cannot be taken into conſideration in judging of the merits of this cauſe." The Aſſembly thereafter having heard parties upon the cauſe, they, without a vote, affirmed the ſentence of the Synod of Roſs, in ſo far as it ordains the Preſbytery of Dingwall to proceed in the ſettlement of Mr Dallas in the pariſh of Contin, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

Thereafter the Aſſembly, upon a motion, unanimouſly remitted to the procurator and agent for the Church, to oppoſe the propoſed

propoſed annexation and ſuppreſſion of the pariſh of Contin before the Court of teinds.

Upon a motion, the Committee of bills appointed to meet tomorrow.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 26. 1792. *Seſſ.* 9.

Sederunt.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him and his cautioners of the ſum of L. 624 : 0 : $7\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account, for the ſum of L. 124 : 0 : $7\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncroſs, agent for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him of the ſum of L. 237 : 16 : 1 Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing that he debit himſelf in his next account, with the ſum of L. 5 : 18 : 11 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, Subclerk of Aſſembly, and exonering and diſcharging him of the ſum of L. 41 : 6 : 9 Sterling diſburſed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account, for the ſum of L. 22 : 11 : 9 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of the expences of the appeal in the caſe of Tingwall, due to John Spottiſwoode, Eſq; ſolicitor at London, and ordering payment of the ſum of L. 173 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphingſton Balfour, ſtationer to the Church, and ordering payment of the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickſon, printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the amount thereof.

The report of the Committee on the public funds of the Church, and new applications thereanent, given in, and read, and unanimouſly approved of.

In reſpect of the particular circumſtances of the caſe, the Aſſembly remitted to the procurator and agent for the Church, to attend to any proceſs in which Dr Smith, Miniſter of Campbelton, may be called as a defender, for expreſſions uſed by him in his judicative capacity, when the caſe of Mr Peat, preſentee to the pariſh of Gigha and Cara, was before the Synod of Argyle.

The defence of the proceſs of ſuppreſſion, and annexation of the pariſhes of Mains and Strathmartin, remitted to the procurator and agent for the Church, to be carried through at the public expence, and the procurator authoriſed to pay to the agent, the ſum of L. 8 : 3 : 3 Sterling, being the expence already laid out in that proceſs.

The

The Aſſembly agreed to pay particular attention to the petition of the Synod of Moray, reſpecting the ſuppreſſion of the Church of Dundurcas, and the annexation of that pariſh to the pariſhes of Boharm and Rothes, whenever the ſtate of the Church's funds appear to admit of it.

A Memorial for the Preſbytery of Linlithgow, reſpecting irregular marriages being read, the Aſſembly diſmiſſed the ſame.

The report of the viſitors of the Commiſſion record called for; the Commiſſion's conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commiſſion; and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The report of the Committee for naming the Members of the COMMISSION of this ASSEMBLY, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in, and approved of: The Aſſembly added thereto Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, in place of the Moderator. See Printed Acts, No. V.

The report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty record, given in, and read; the conduct of the Managers approved of; and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commiſſion, and inſtructions to them. See Printed Acts, No. VI.

The Synod-book of Fife ordered to be atteſted.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be atteſted.

The Committee on the Enzie Fund, renewed with the former powers; and Sir Henry Moncrieff, Mr Moodie, and Mr Solicitor-General added to the Committee.

The Committee on the ſcheme for erecting new pariſhes renewed, with the former powers.

The overture anent the ſuppreſſion and annexation of pariſhes delayed till Monday.

The General Aſſembly, upon a motion, that in reſpect the next ordinary meeting of the Preſbytery of Dingwall is on the firſt of Auguſt, appoint the ſaid Preſbytery to meet on the third Wedneſday of June next, to receive the judgment of the Aſſembly in the cauſe of Contin.

The report of the Committee formerly appointed to draw up a motion, reſpecting the carrying into execution the Aſſembly's reſolution, with regard to the Horſe-tax, given in, and read, and unanimouſly approved of.

The Aſſembly, agreeable to a former reſolution, proceeded to conſider the report of the Committee on the augmentation of ſtipends, and the ſame was firſt read all over, and thereafter, paragraph by paragraph; and after being maturely conſidered, was approved of as follows, viz.

"1*mo*, That the powers of the Lords of Seſſion, as Commiſ-
"ſioners for plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds,
"ſhall be explained, ſo as to make it competent for them
"to modify and augment ſtipends, and to pronounce de-
"crees of locality for the ſame, in all caſes, where any le-

" gal fund of augmentation appears, whether a former aug-
" mentation has taken place or not, unleſs where ſuch for-
" mer augmentation has been obtained within
" years preceding the date of the new application ſo made,
" all relevant objections in point of expediency, or which
" may ariſe out of the rights and intereſts of other parties
" concerned, being ſtill open to be ſtated as heretofore, and
" judged by the Court; and that in order to diminiſh the
" expence of proceſſes of augmentation, modification, and
" locality, that the Court ſhall be empowered to make acts
" of ſederunt, containing rules and regulations for expedit-
" ing the buſineſs committed to them in all points, and
" more eſpecially, for abridging the forms and expence of
" citation, and bringing actions or proceſſes into Court,
" and ſettling localities, &c.

" 2*do*, That the vacant ſtipends, which may at any time a-
" riſe in each pariſh, ſhall be applied towards purchaſing
" lands, lying as convenient as may be, for an addition to
" the glebe of that pariſh, and that, till a proper opportu-
" nity ſhall occur for purchaſing lands ſo ſituated, the pro-
" duce of the vacant ſtipend ſhall be lent out upon good ſe-
" curity, and the intereſt thereof drawn by the Miniſter of
" the pariſh, over and above his former ſtipend; and that
" in every Synod, there ſhall be appointed a collector, with
" power to uplift the vacant ſtipends, and to lend out the
" ſame, in order to be applied for the purpoſes above men-
" tioned; it being always underſtood, that the vacant ſti-
" pends within the Synod of Argyle ſhall remain appli-
" cable, as they are at preſent, by virtue of an act of Par-
" liament of Scotland 1690.

" 3*tio*, That it ſhall be competent to the Court, upon the ap-
" plication of any Miniſter of any pariſh, where the glebe
" or graſs ground may ſometimes be feued to very great ad-
" vantage, to authoriſe ſuch glebe or graſs ground, or both
" to be granted in feu, upon the beſt terms that can be
" obtained; but ſo as that in no caſe the feu-duty ſhall be
" leſs than ten bolls of wheat, Linlithgow meaſure, *per*
" acre; and that there ſhall be no purchaſe paid at the
" commencement of the feu, nor entry-money by any ſin-
" gular ſucceſſor; and that whatever be the extent of the
" feu-duty, the ſame ſhall not be paid in money, but in
" grain, the Court being ſatisfied of the expediency of that
" meaſure; and the tranſaction being executed in ſuch way
" and manner as ſhall be effectual to ſecure to the preſent
" and future incumbents, all the advantages thence ariſing;
" and that, upon every ſuch application, the Preſbytery of
" the bounds, and the heritors of the pariſh, ſhall be called
" as parties, that they may have an opportunity of ſtating
" objections, if any ſuch there are, to the meaſure pro-
" poſed.

" 4*to*,

" *4to*, That Miniſters ſtipends, if not regularly paid, ſhall " bear intereſt to the Miniſter from the term of pay- " ment; and that the victual part of the ſtipend, if not de- " livered at the term of Candlemas, ſhall alſo bear intereſt " from that term, according to the prices of ſuch victual " eſtabliſhed by the Sheriff fiars of the county.

" *5to*, That the heritors ſhall be bound to deliver the victual " ſtipend, either at the manſe, or neareſt market-town, or " ſea-port, at the option of the Miniſter, not beyond " diſtance.

" *Laſtly*, That application ſhall be made to the Legiſlature " for an act of Parliament to carry into execution the above " propoſals, if the ſame ſhall be approved of."

Upon a motion, the Moderator, from the chair, gave the thanks of the Aſſembly to the Solicitor-General, Convener of the Committee, for the great trouble and pains taken by him in this important buſineſs: And the Aſſembly renewed the former Committee, with the addition of ſome Members, and inſtructed them to digeſt the heads of this propoſal, which have been agreed to by the houſe into the form of a bill; to tranſmit copies of this bill, if then made out; and if not, the heads or ſubſtance of it betwixt and the 15th day of September, to the conveners of the different counties, and to give in a report of their proceedings to the Commiſſion in November: And the Aſſembly reſolve, that the Commiſſion ſhall be ſpecially empowered and inſtructed, if they approve of the ſaid report, to make application to the Legiſlature for obtaining an act of Parliament, for the purpoſes therein mentioned. See Printed Acts, at the end of No. V.

Upon a motion, the Committee of bills appointed to meet tomorrow.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 28. 1792. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

Upon a motion, the Aſſembly appointed Dr Hill, Dr Hardy, Sir Henry Moncreiff, Dr David Johnſton, Miniſters; the Lord Preſident, Lord Advocate, Mr Solicitor-General, the Procurator, and Mr Dalzel, Ruling Elders, as a Committee, to conſider the moſt adviſable methods of extricating the funds of the Church from their preſent embarraſſed ſituation, and appointed the Procurator Convener.

The report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in, and read.

The report of the Truſtees of the fund, eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

Liſt

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the overture from the Synod of Moray, respecting the annexation and suppression of parishes, and unanimously agreed to transmit an overture to that purpose, for the consideration of Presbyteries.

See Printed Acts, No. IX.

The Assembly having considered a petition for Mr William Smith, Minister of Bower, and also a List of Grievances from the Presbytery of Kirkwall, did, in terms of a resolution in a similar case last Assembly, again express their sympathy with the brethren of those Presbyteries, and ordered the said papers to lie on the table, until the state of the funds of the Church shall admit of affording them aid in prosecuting their just claims before a civil court. At the same time, the Assembly earnestly wish, that such measures may be speedily adopted by the heritors within the bounds of those Presbyteries as may render this aid unnecessary.

A reference from the Presbytery of Dunfermline, respecting the libel against Mr Andrew Robertson, presentee to the Church and parish of Inverkeithing, heard: The Assembly, after reasoning, agreed, without a vote, to this judgment: In respect of the conduct of the pursuers before the Presbytery, and of their not having demanded procedure upon the libel, the Assembly declares, That the same shall be held as fallen from; and find, That there is no bar in the way of the Presbytery of Dunfermline, to prevent them from proceeding to the settlement of Mr Andrew Robertson in the Church of Inverkeithing, according to the rules of the Church: And the Assembly, at the request of the Presbytery, appoint, that the said settlement shall take place, on or before the first Thursday of September next.

Protestations admitted.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not discussed, referred to the Commission.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's Proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

See Printed Acts, No. X.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of psalms, and pronouncing the blessing.